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Committee for Programme and Coordination
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Agenda item 8
Adoption of the report of the Committee on its forty-sixth session

Draft report

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Addendum

Coordination questions: New Partnership for Africa's Development (item 4 (b))
Report of the Joint Inspection Unit (item 5)

United Nations system support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development

Further measures to strengthen United Nations system support to the New Partnership for Africa's Development

1. At its 4th and 6th meetings, on 15 and 16 August 2006, the Committee considered the report of the Secretary-General on United Nations system support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development (E/AC.51/2006/6). In conjunction with that report, the Committee also considered the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on further measures to strengthen United Nations system support to the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) (A/61/69) and the comments thereon of the Secretary-General and the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) (A/61/69/Add.1).

2. The Director of the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa introduced the Secretary-General's report and responded to questions raised during the Committee's consideration of the report. An inspector introduced the report of the Joint Inspection Unit and responded to questions raised. The Director of the CEB secretariat introduced the report containing the comments of the Secretary-General and CEB thereon.

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Discussion

3. Appreciation was expressed for the useful and informative nature of the two reports. Regarding the Secretary-General's report, some delegations noted that impact analysis and assessment of United Nations assistance to NEPAD as well as monitoring of the commitments of the international community should be incorporated into future reports. Another delegation noted with surprise that UNICEF was not included in the report, and recommended that in view of its important work in Africa, future reports should include it.

4. With regard to the report of the Joint Inspection Unit, clarification was provided as to its nature. The inspector confirmed that the report was not about NEPAD per se, but about the coordinating role of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), including the institutional and coordination arrangements of United Nations agencies working in Africa.

5. Strong statements of support for NEPAD were made, and the important role of United Nations system agencies in the implementation of NEPAD was highlighted. The importance of effective institutional architecture and better coordination among agencies for United Nations system support for Africa was particularly emphasized.

6. Support was expressed for the role of the Office of the Special Adviser as the focal point for United Nations support for NEPAD at the global level, while the key role of ECA in coordinating the contributions of United Nations agencies to NEPAD implementation at the regional and subregional levels was acknowledged. In particular, a number of delegations emphasized that the role of ECA as strategic coordinator should be strengthened.

7. The view was expressed that NEPAD provided good opportunities for agencies to work together, and that collaboration and coordination of agencies would need to be improved in the future. In addition, a delegation expressed its hope that NEPAD-related coordination could result in greater cooperation among United Nations agencies than was currently the case.

8. Concern was voiced as to the significant financial implications of some recommendations made in the report of the Joint Inspection Unit. Concern was also voiced over the possible loss of operational capacity by United Nations agencies, which may second their staff to ECA.

9. The Committee's central role in matters of programming and coordinating was highlighted, including in particular its role in helping implement the recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit.

Conclusions and recommendations

10. **The Committee welcomed the report of the Secretary-General on United Nations system support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development (E/AC.51/2006/6) and noted the key achievements of the United Nations system aimed at fulfilling its role in the implementation of NEPAD.**

11. **The Committee recognized that the United Nations system continued to make a concrete contribution to the objectives of NEPAD, through assistance to African countries, the African Union and African subregional organizations.**

12. The Committee reiterated the importance of Africa's ownership and leadership of NEPAD, which are regarded as key factors to progress in its implementation.

13. The Committee endorsed the recommendations contained in paragraphs 79 to 81 of the report. The Committee also urged the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa to take note of the reports of OIOS in respect of knowledge-sharing and to participate in the follow-up processes.

14. The Committee welcomed the support provided by United Nations bodies, funds and agencies for NEPAD and reiterated the central and critical roles of CEB and the Office of the Special Adviser for the advocacy and fostering of international support for NEPAD at the global level. In that regard, the Committee stressed the vital role of the Office of the Special Adviser in the activities of the advocacy and communications cluster.

15. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to continue to strengthen the Office of the Special Adviser in order to accelerate the implementation of NEPAD and effectively fulfil its mandate to coordinate resource and capacity mobilization, institutional support and advocacy to enhance a coordinated and integrated response to the challenges facing Africa.

16. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly request the Office of the Special Adviser to provide leadership and coordinated support to African countries, ECA and the African Union.

17. The Committee noted with concern that several challenges and constraints, mainly concerning issues of coordination, collaboration and funding, continued to hinder the full effectiveness of the United Nations system in the implementation of NEPAD, and urged the various components of the United Nations system to make greater efforts to work together to ensure the proper utilization of talents and resources. The Committee encouraged the practical implementation of inter-agency coordination; regular and periodic dialogue with ECA, the African Union and the NEPAD secretariat; and inter-agency joint planning.

18. The Committee stressed that the United Nations system constituted a crucial pillar in the advocacy for and delivery of international support to Africa and therefore also needed to monitor international commitments in support of NEPAD to avoid duplication.

19. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly consider recommendations 1 to 10, as contained in the report of the Joint Inspection Unit (A/61/69).